

As we move further and further into the information age, the national government must ensure that competition is not eliminated. The Department of Justice should therefore be commended for acting to protect consumers and businesses alike. Similarly, Microsoft deserves credit for agreeing to settle the issue of bundling its operating system software with its internet browser software in what the Department of Justice believed to be a fair and equitable manner. Both made the right call.●

SANCTITY OF THE BALLOT

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, yesterday's Wall Street Journal lead editorial entitled "Sanctity of the Ballot" should be a wakeup call for America's citizens. Sadly, we can no longer assume public officials tasked with protecting your vote are able to do so. The fact is, passage of the Motor Voter Act has led to growing incidences of election fraud in communities large and small, and the problem is getting worse all the time.

The editorial highlights an important new national organization, the Voting Integrity Project (VIP), which was formed in 1996 in response to the growing abuses highlighted by the Journal. VIP is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of citizens and civic groups. It organizes and trains citizens to protect the integrity of the vote in their own community. It also investigates and litigates important election fraud cases, including constitutional issues. It is the only independent, national organization performing this important work.

Mr. President, VIP has learned that it is nearly impossible to overturn elections once they have been certified and places its emphasis accordingly, in pro-active programs run by the citizens themselves. Indeed, American voters need to wake up to the harsh reality of today's election process and begin to equip themselves, through organizations such as VIP, to guard the sanctity of their communities' elections and their vote.

I ask that the text of the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 2, 1998]

SANCTITY OF THE BALLOT

In a rush to make it as easy as possible for citizens to exercise their right to vote, the country has created lax registration and voting procedures that could call into question a close election any number of states. The 1983 federal Motor Voter law requires states to allow people to register to vote when they get a driver's license, even though 47 states don't require proof of legal US residence much less citizenship for such a license. "We have the modern world's sloppiest electoral system," warns political scientist Walter Dean Burnham.

Media and political elites pooch-pooch such concerns, but they are genuine and growing. The House of Representatives has just dismissed an election challenge by former Rep. Bob Dornan of California. But buried in the

news that Rep. Loretta Sanchez would keep her seat was the conclusion of a House task force that 748 illegal votes had been cast in an election decided by only 979 votes.

The year long investigation established 624 "documented" cases of non-citizens voting. Another 124 voters cast improper absentee ballots. An additional 196 votes may well have been illegal, but only circumstantial evidence existed. "In the end of the day," says GOP task force member Rep. Robert Ney, "Bob Dornan was right—there were illegal voters." In the Sanchez race they represented close to 1% of all votes cast. The danger is that if this is tolerated, it will only get worse.

In the wake of the Sanchez-Dornan dispute, Rep. Steve Horn, a California Republican, called for a vote on a pilot program to combat fraud in five large states. Local and state officials would be allowed, but not required, to check citizenship records with Social Security and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. If they couldn't verify citizenship, the voter would have to prove his or her status or risk being dropped from the rolls. The program included privacy protections and a requirement that it be "uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

This sensible and sensitive proposal doesn't unduly trample on immigrant rights. Almost half the states already ask for all or part of the Social Security number to register to vote. But Democrats, fresh from Ms. Sanchez's triumph, practically accused Rep. Horn of reinventing the poll tax and literacy tests of the Jim Crow era. "It is a shame, it is a disgrace," said Rep. John Lewis, a veteran of the civil rights movement.

In the end, the bill won a 210-200 majority, but it failed because it was brought to the floor under a rule requiring a two-thirds majority. Rep. Horn hopes to have a vote under normal rules within a month. He points to a growing body of evidence that the potential for vote fraud is growing, noting some in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol itself.

In Washington, D.C. an astonishing one of every six registered voters can't be reached at their address of record. The city has lost 100,000 people since 1980, but registration has shot up to 86% of eligible voters from only 58%. Nationally, the average registration rate is only 66%. Felons, dead people, non-residents and fictitious registrations clog the rolls in Washington, where anyone can walk up and vote without showing I.D.

Across the Potomac River in Virginia, Robert Beers, the voter registrar of prosperous Fairfax County, says the Motor Voter law has increased the number of registered voters, but turnout has actually fallen in recent elections. "There is no question in my mind that we have registered people who aren't U.S. citizens," Mr. Beers told the Washington Times. "Nobody worries about the rolls until you get to the election that's decided by three votes. I wish they would pay attention to it before it gets to that point." He is backing a state bill to require voters to show some type of photo I.D.

Last month Mississippi's legislature passed a motor voter law, but Governor Kirk Fordice issued a veto because it lacked a voter I.D. provision. "Vote fraud is an equal opportunity election stealer," he says. His concerns about improper registrations are echoed elsewhere. The Miami Herald has found that 105 ballots in last year's disputed mayoral election were cast by felons. Last month a local grand jury concluded that "absentee ballot fraud clearly played an important part in the recent City of Miami elections." This "called into question the legitimacy of the results."

In San Francisco, the Voting Integrity Project has filed suit to overturn a ref-

erendum that approved a new stadium. They cite evidence of actions by city and stadium officials to tilt the results toward a pro-stadium vote. The scandal has already been marked by the registrations of the city's election supervisor and Edward DeBartolo, chairman of the San Francisco 49ers.

Everyone supports the right to vote, but an equally important right is the guarantee of elections that are fair and free of fraud. Right now a growing number of states can't guarantee the integrity of their results, and that inevitably will lead to an increasing cynicism and disenchantment with the democratic process.●

NATO EXPANSION AND THE EU

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has reported the Resolution of Ratification to NATO enlargement. It is appropriate at this time to inform my colleagues of my intention to offer a condition to the Resolution of Ratification when it comes to the Senate for debate linking NATO expansion with economic expansion. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by the senior Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER.

The former Majority Leader, Howard Baker, Jr., our colleague Sam Nunn, Brent Scowcroft, and Alton Frye recently wrote an article for The New York Times in which they assert that "Linking NATO expansion to the expansion of the European Union would underscore the connection between Europe's security and its economy—and offer certification that entrants to NATO could afford to meet its defense obligations."

It is our contention that Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic face no security threats, so strengthening their economies and democratic institutions should be their first priority.

All three of the candidates are eager to join the European Union (EU), which has now decided to begin accession negotiations with them. NATO's decision at Madrid to invite these countries to negotiate for membership preceded the EU offer to negotiate accession. The EU's offer affords the Senate an opportunity to lend support to these countries' bid for EU membership, without accepting any presumption that entry into the EU guarantees admission to NATO.

A provision to link admission to NATO with admission to the EU will encourage expeditious negotiations by the EU, and will allow the three countries to concentrate their full resources on economic modernization, rather than diverting precious resources to military expenditures.

I ask that the text of the condition be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the condition follows:

At the end of section of the resolution (relating to conditions), add the following:

() DEFERRAL OF RATIFICATION OF NATO ENLARGEMENT UNTIL ADMISSION OF POLAND, HUNGARY, AND CZECH REPUBLIC TO THE EUROPEAN UNION.—

(A) PROHIBITION.—The President shall not deposit the United States instrument of ratification prior to the latest date by which Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic have